

The background image shows a legislative chamber or a modern office space. In the foreground, a man in a light-colored shirt is seated at a desk, looking at a large monitor. The monitor displays a video conference with many participants in a grid layout. Other people are visible in the background, also working at desks. The room has high ceilings and large windows with blue curtains.

2020 HJR 14: Telegovernment Study & Report

Rep. Phillip Lyman

A joint study by Legislative IT Staff, the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel, and the Utah Education & Telehealth Network

Prepared for the Public Utilities, Energy, and Technology Interim Committee September 15, 2020

Presentation Roadmap

- ◆ Overview of 2020 HJR 14
- ◆ 2020: The Virtual Meeting Experiment
- ◆ Lessons Learned/Future Considerations



image source: <https://twitter.com/UTStateCapitol/status/913509935484477440>

Overview of 2020 HJR 14

The Legislature requests a joint study be carried out by Legislative IT Services, LRGC, and UETN on the following telegovernment aspects:

- ◇ network connectivity and bandwidth capacity
- ◇ the platform(s) for delivering expanded services
- ◇ whether expanded services should follow a decentralized or centralized model
- ◇ to which legislative meetings expanded services will apply
- ◇ telegovernment feedback from Utah League of Cities and Towns & Utah Association of Counties
- ◇ access by Legislators from rural districts
- ◇ data privacy and cyber security
- ◇ access issues related to disability and free speech
- ◇ potential costs and staffing needs

Session-to-Interim Transition



- ◆ 2020 SJR16: modify legislative rules pertaining to e-meetings
- ◆ Conduct necessary legal analysis (OPMA, GRAMA, etc.)

March

- ◆ Proceed with early experimentation
- ◆ Begin addressing security and privacy concerns
- ◆ Link Webex to KUEN Digital TV in order to broadcast upcoming Special Sessions



Image source: <https://house.utah.gov/daily-buzz-january-24-2017/>

April

- ◆ Installation and configuration of necessary software/hardware
- ◆ Ensure accessibility
- ◆ Practice via mock sessions
- ◆ First E-Special Session
 - Nationwide Cisco blackout
- ◆ Second E-Special Session



May

- ◆ Duplicate technology in committee rooms that was used during April Special Session
- ◆ Multiple committee meetings held at same time
- ◆ First committee meetings held with online public comment



Image source: fox13now.com, <https://www.fox13now.com/news/coronavirus/local-coronavirus-news/socially-distant-at-the-capitol-lawmakers-plan-covid-19-bills>

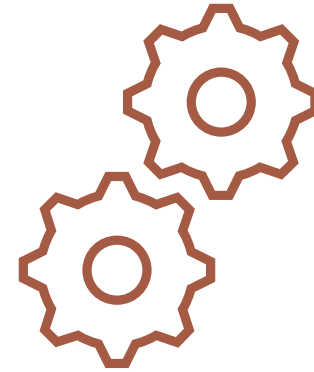
June

- ◆ Concurrent streaming of meetings and broadcasts of June SS on cable TV and public TV
- ◆ Sign-up for public comment via interim and appropriation committee webpages



July

- ◆ A month for polishing and fine-tuning
- ◆ COVID-19 Economic Recovery Programs Committee



August

- ◆ First “hybrid” committee meetings
- ◆ Increased technological agility
- ◆ Special Session 6



Image source: <https://utahsenate.smugmug.com/General-Session-2020/Interim-and-Special-Session-August-2020/Special-Session-August/i-BiN3ZkS/A>

September

- ◆ Maintain “hybrid” meeting structure
- ◆ First *live* public comment



LIVE



2021 Legislative Telegovernment Stats

Special Sessions

Member Attendance: Remote or Hybrid?	Concurrently held Chambers or Consecutively held Chambers?	Public Comment type?
APRIL: 3rd & 4th		
Remote	Consecutive	Via SS bills
Remote	Consecutive	Via SS Bills
JUNE: 5th		
Hybrid	Concurrently	Bill hearings/Committee webpages
AUGUST: 6th		
Hybrid	Concurrently	Bill hearings/Committee webpages

Appropriations Meetings

# of Meetings held Concurrently	Member Attendance: Remote or Hybrid?	Media Attendance: Remote or Hybrid?	Public Comment type?
MAY			
2	Remote	Remote	Pre-register via committee webpage
AUGUST			
4	Hybrid	Hybrid	Pre-register via committee webpage

Interim Meetings

# of Meetings held Concurrently	Member Attendance: Remote or Hybrid?	Media Attendance: Remote or Hybrid?	Public Comment type?
JUNE			
2-3	Remote	Remote	Pre-register via committee webpage
AUGUST			
3	Hybrid	Hybrid	Pre-register via committee webpage
SEPTEMBER			
3	Hybrid	Hybrid	Live

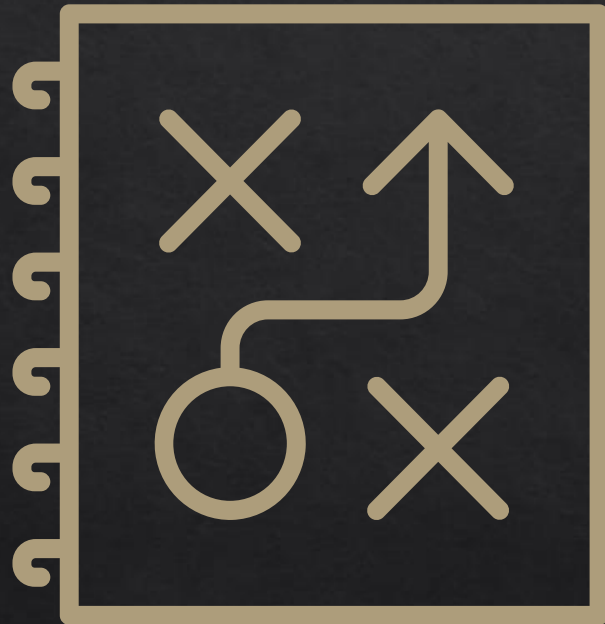
Lessons Learned/Future Considerations



◆ Integrating online and in-person participants

- e.g., hybrid format, public comment, voting, and other committee protocols

Lessons Learned/Future Considerations



◆ Responding to external circumstances/backup plans

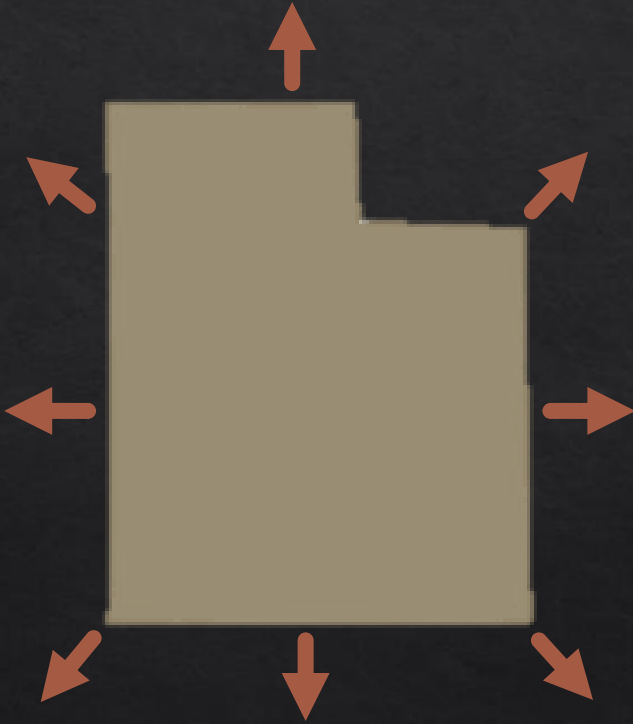
- e.g., pandemics, having phone numbers in case of tech struggles, different meeting software in case of malfunction

Lessons Learned/Future Considerations



- ◆ Continuing to build in cyber security protocols and protections

Lessons Learned/Future Considerations



◆ Service expansion

- e.g., public meeting support staff, potential involvement of other entities

Lessons Learned/Future Considerations



◆ Feedback from ULCT

- hybrid meetings have leveled the playing field, allowing rural communities more equal participation in the legislative process; should remain the norm for both session and interim.
- presentations need to be viewable by everyone (not just meeting participants)
- 12-hour requirement to register for public comment should be shortened
- broadband access throughout the state remains spotty and is a driving limitation

Questions or Comments?